

**Resolution Presented by the
Work Group on Water Supply, Quality and Reliability
to the Board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley on
June 7, 2006**

**BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY IN
THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL SAN JOAQUIN
RIVER SURFACE WATER STORAGE**

WHEREAS, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley includes the following counties, Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin; and

WHEREAS, a role of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is to assist with communications and cooperation in the region and encourage comprehensive regional solutions; and

WHEREAS, the development of surface water supplies during the valley's formative years and maintenance of those supplies on an ongoing basis is one of the most important elements in supporting and sustaining the region's people, communities, social structure, agriculture, commerce and economy; and

WHEREAS, water from the San Joaquin River is among the supply sources that is of greatest importance to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the region, its people, communities, businesses and farms, and the San Joaquin Valley of California as well as the environment; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley's economy is highly complex and diverse, a foundation of one of the most rapidly growing regions in the United States, and is reliant upon ample supplies of water to continue to develop and advance and remain the nation's leading region in agricultural production values; and

WHEREAS, virtually all of the region's agricultural production and the overwhelming majority of its residential, commercial and industrial development occurs on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, a land of little rain and limited supplies of water; and

WHEREAS, pending settlement of San Joaquin River litigation initiated in 1988 means that supplies of water currently utilized beneficially along the southern San Joaquin Valley's East Side may be significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley as a whole has an annual groundwater overdraft of 1.5 to 2 million acre-feet and additional surface storage can help to regulate water flow to best utilize groundwater recharge facilities to reduce this serious overdraft situation; and

WHEREAS, flood control on the San Joaquin River and throughout the region continue to pose a threat to the Valley's well being and economy; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, in its 2005 update of the *California Water Plan* found that new storage facilities currently being evaluated, including those in the Upper San Joaquin basin, could provide a wide range of benefits including water supply and water quality benefits for agricultural, urban and environmental uses, additional water supply for wildlife refuges, improvement of Delta water quality for ecosystem services, improvement of stream flows during critical times for fisheries and other ecosystem processes, improved flexibility in water management including water transfers; improved effectiveness of conjunctive management strategies, improved flood control, and hydropower; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the State of California as a whole to utilize a managed flow from the San Joaquin River to: Enhance the environment of the River and Bay Delta by controlling San Joaquin River Basin releases to minimize damage to levees, provide fresh water when needed to reduce salinity and regulate water temperature; and Protect Bay Delta levees which are an integral network necessary to providing potable water from northern California to over 20 million people in Southern California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley does hereby find that additional San Joaquin River Basin surface water storage facilities should be evaluated and developed to provide adequate amounts of water for restoration of the San Joaquin River and its fishery while protecting the needs and interests of all Californians including those that live in the San Joaquin Valley, existing water users, enhancing public safety through improved flood control and anticipating the demands of present and future urban growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley does hereby declare that it supports funding -- through federal, state (including a state infrastructure bond measure such as proposed in State Senate Bill 902), and local sources -- to support expeditious completion of studies and development of additional San Joaquin River Basin surface water storage; and The foregoing Resolution was adopted by consensus (with State secretaries or their designees recused from the discussion and voting) at a Board meeting held on the 7th day of June 2006.

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The resolution was approved by consensus by the Board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley on June 7, 2006 and is hereby incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.